

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments have been given careful consideration. While the prior art cited is indeed pertinent, applicant submits that the subject invention as illustrated in the drawings accompanying applicant's specification provides advantages and features which are not shown in the prior art. An attempt has been made in the accompanying amendments to the claims to better define applicant's invention and distinguish same from the prior art.

It will be noted that applicant's invention consists in providing a disposable type razor which conveniently has a trimming wand concealed in its body which may be used to more accurately trim facial and other body hair. The trimming wand is characterized by having at least one trim blade which is smaller in length than the length of the blade in a shaving head provided at one end of the handle body.

Melton et al provides an attachment which in use is secured to hair clipper blades and which when is not in use may be secured to the housing of the hair clipper for storage purposes. Branchinelli et al provides a razor with two cartridges having blades of different length and both extending in opposite directions at the same end of a handle body. McIntyre et al provides a razor body with a hollow handle which receives a straight razor which can be used for trimming but which is rather old fashioned and awkward to use for persons without experience in using non-safety type blades.

The Examiner has relied on McIntyre as a primary reference to reject the claims. It will be noted that McIntyre shows two embodiments of the razor. In Fig. 1 a straight blade is pivoted directly to the handle for the razor and is received in a side opening of the handle body. In Fig. 9, the straight blade is pivoted to a housing and the housing is slidably received inside the handle body for the razor. In both cases, the straight blade is pivoted as otherwise it is almost impossible to use.

As indicated in the enclosed amended claims, applicant's trimming wand has at least one transversely disposed trim blade at one end which is smaller in length than the length of the blade in the associated shaving head. This feature is not taught in McIntyre et al and, it is submitted that there is no obvious teaching of how to incorporate a trimming wand having at least one transversely disposed trim blade. While Branchinelli et al might suggest that it is desirable to have shaving cartridges with blades of different length, combining same with McIntyre might only suggest that the straight blade could be made shorter.

The Examiner has noted that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The reasons for allowance are not detailed in the office action. Claim 5 as originally filed provides for the handle body to have an end cap to close the open end thereof as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings. It is submitted that McIntyre et al also provides an end cap to close an open end of the shaver handle, the end cap being indicated by reference numeral 144 in Fig. 7. Applicant is therefore left in a state of doubt whether the Examiner considers the combination of a razor having a trimming wand with at least one trim blade which is smaller in length, a handle body which is hollow to slidably receive the trimming wand between a stored position in which the trimming wand is concealed and a retracted position in which the trimming wand is exposed and an end cap to close the open end of the hollow handle body to be patentable or whether the Examiner intended to indicate that some other claim was allowable.

Amended claim 4 currently presented for consideration is an independent claim which incorporates the features of claim 1 and the limitation of the end cap to close the open end of the handle body as previously defined in claim 5. In addition, claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the trim blade is transversely disposed to the trimming wand itself thereby clearly distinguishing its structure from that of the straight razor incorporated into the shaving instrument of McIntyre.

Amended claim 1 now presented for consideration includes the features of originally filed claim 4 and of originally filed claim 6. Claim 1 as amended also provides for the trimming wand to be slidably received in the handle body and defines the handle body to include a slot guide that extends along a portion of the handle body. The trimming wand has a knob extending transversely through the slot guide at a bottom end of the wand which is slidable in the slot guide. While McIntyre et al do provide for a slot guide indicated by reference numeral 245 (see Fig. 9) and a lever or knob 243, the knob is connected to housing block 252 which pivotally receives the straight razor 217. The knob 243 cannot be coupled directly to the straight razor since the razor needs to be hinged as at 227 in order to operate. By contrast, in amended claim 1, which is based on original claim 6, the trim wand itself has a knob extending transversely through the slot guide, the trim wand being adapted to be slidably received in the handle body without the intermediary of a housing. This feature of the invention will be clearly apparent from Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawings.

Amended claim 7 provides for a trimming wand which is pivotally coupled to the open end of the handle body but as amended, the claim clarifies that the trimming wand has at

least one transversely disposed trim wand at one end which is smaller in length than the predetermined length of the blades in the shaving head thereby distinguishing it from McIntyre et al for the reasons discussed above. This embodiment of the invention is shown in Figs. 5 and 6 of applicant's specification.

Finally, applicant requests the Examiner to give consideration to amended claim 8 which defines the handle body to be formed in two complementary body portions separable from each other with one body portion having the body cavity for receiving the trimming wand and the other body portion having the trimming wand extending outwardly therefrom so as to be slidably received in the body cavity. This structure is illustrated in applicant's drawings by Figs. 7 to 10 and is not shown or taught in any way in any of the references made of record.

Favorable consideration of this application and its allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Geronimo Segrea



Ingrid E. Schmidt
Registration No. 33344
IES:nf

Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP (Customer No. 28079)
120 King Street West, Suite 560
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8P 4V2
Direct: (905) 540-3277

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